

REMARKS

The above amendments and the following remarks are fully and completely responsive to the Office Action dated October 4, 2004. Claims 1-4 and 9 have been allowed. By this Amendment, claim 6 has been canceled, claims 5 and 7 have been amended and claims 10-14 have been added. Accordingly, claims 1-5 and 7-14 are pending in this application. In the outstanding Office Action, claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite and claims 6-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by McKee (U.S. Patent No. 6,598,157). No new matter has been added. Claims 5, 7, 8 and 10-14 are presented for consideration.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-4 and 9 have been allowed.

35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has amended claim 5 to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 6-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by McKee (U.S. Patent No. 6,598,157). The cancellation of claim 6 renders the rejection of claim 6 moot.

Regarding claims 7-8, the Office Action asserts that this reference teaches each and every element of the claimed invention. Applicant disagrees and requests reconsideration of this rejection.

Claim 7, as amended, recites in part:

...a boot block type specifying terminal that specifies a desired boot block type of a memory device having a plurality of sectors; and
a signal conversion circuit that converts a sector address inputted to the sector-address input terminal based on a signal inputted to the boot block type specifying terminal and a most significant bit of the sector address, and outputs a converted sector address from the sector-address output terminal, so that the semiconductor memory device functions as a desired boot block type.

First, in the present invention, the semiconductor memory includes a plurality of sectors, and each of the sectors can be changed to be a boot block as either one of a top type and a bottom type. However, in the invention of McKee, only one boot block (222) can be changed to be a top or bottom type.

Second, in the present invention, by using special input terminals or by using a combination of command registers, it is possible to easily change the sector to be the boot block. However, in the invention of McKee, this change requires a special external signal CFG (226).

Third, in the present invention, by using a sector address circuit, a memory address itself can be changed to be the top or bottom type. However, in the invention of McKee, each address at a top side and a bottom side is fixed in the main area (218).

Fourth, in the present invention, since the small sectors capable of being the top and the bottom exist in a single memory, it is possible to write new data simultaneously while retaining the existing data in the memory, like an STB system.

However, in the invention of McKee, since the memory has only one boot block (222), only one of the top and the bottom is realized. That is, both the top and the bottom cannot be realized by McKee. Accordingly, it is impossible to write new data simultaneously while retaining the existing data, which can be realized by the STB system.

Consequently, McKee fails to teach and/or suggest the claimed invention. Therefore, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 7-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

New Claims

Claims 10-14 have been added to claim additional features of the present invention, which are neither taught nor suggested by the cited prior art. Therefore, Applicant requests consideration and allowance of new claims 10-14.

Conclusion

Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes the application is not in condition for allowance, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney by telephone if it is believed that such contact will expedite the prosecution of the application.

In the event that this paper is not considered to be timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge payment for any additional fees which may be required with respect to this paper to our Deposit Account No. 01-2300, making reference to attorney docket number 100353-00092.

Respectfully submitted,
ARENT FOX PLLC



Rustan J. Hill
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 37,351

Customer No. 004372
ARENT FOX PLLC
1050 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.,
Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20036-5339
Tel: (202) 857-6000
Fax: (202) 638-4810

RJH/elz

Enclosure: Petition for Extension of Time
Amendment and Fee Transmittal

TECH/289807.1